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EW-8-24-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Nicholas P. Van Brunt
 Appln. No. : 09/412,459
 Filed : October 4, 1999
 Title : AIRWAY TREATMENT APPARATUS
 WITH BIAS LINE CANCELLATION
 Docket No. : A792.12-0006



Group Art Unit: 3764
 Examiner: B. Koo

RESPONSE AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4-5, 8-10 (marked up version attached in Appendix) and add claims 11-15, such that pending claims 1-15 are as follows:

Sub B1
AT
1.(Amended) A chest wall oscillation method comprising:

applying an oscillating compressive force to a chest of a patient which includes a steady state force component and an oscillating force component; and supplying air pressure to a mouthpiece in communication with a mouth of the patient with an oscillating air pressure component and with a steady state air pressure component which is in a direction and which has a magnitude which tends to counteract the steady state force component of the oscillating compressive force.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the steady state air pressure component at least approximately equals a mean pressure exerted on the patient's chest by oscillating compressive force.